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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, WHA/EPSC STATE FOR
INR/IAA, PM, INL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [CI](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - LATIN AMERICA

On January 7, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 116,807) carried a column by attorney and former ambassador Hernan Felipe Errazuriz entitled, "Challenges for 2006." Quote:

"To face 2006 it is advisable that we strengthen our ties with other governments in the region such as Brazil and Colombia that are unwilling to commit to the axis formed by Chavez and Castro; by optimizing excellent ties with the United States; intensifying diplomatic-defense coordination...strengthening border controls that have proven vulnerable to drug traffickers and terrorists...and finally advancing a greater energy autonomy..."

KELLY